GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5235
ANSWERED ON:20.04.2001
IMPACT OF FOOD SUBSIDY ON BPL
PRABHUNATH SINGH

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has reduced the food subsidy;

(b) if so, the details during 2000-2001 as compared to last three years and the effect thereof on the below poverty line population; and

(c) the measures taken to ensure that the families below Poverty Line of the country are not burdened?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN)

(a) & (b): No, Sir. The total food subsidy released during the last four years to the FCI as well as to the State Governments under decentralized procurement has increased. The consumer subsidy under BPL category from 1998-99 to 2000-2001 has increased by 171.58% as is evident from the details of subsidy from 1997-98 to 2000-2001 given below:-

(Rs.in crores)

	97-98	98-99	99-2000	2000-01
BPL	-	1828.72	3985.34	4966.40
APL	5735.30	3712.90	1607.81	-
Others	-	482.40	486.78	1836.90
Arrears	828.00	1123.67	1123.67	1498.57
Buffer	936.70	1552.31	1753.71	3740.13
TOTAL	7500.00	8700.00	9200.00	12042.00

(c) To ensure further that BPL population of the country is not burdened, the following steps have also been taken:-

(i) The CIP of wheat and rice were revised downwards from 25.7.2000;

(ii) The allocation of foodgrains for BPL families @ 20 kg per family per month is now been made on the basis of population projections of the Registrar General as on 1.3.2000 instead of projected population of 1995;

(iii) Food grains at BPL rates are available for allotment to State Governments @ 5kg per head per month for covering categories of indigent people living in welfare institutions such as beggar homes, hostels for SC/ST/Backward Students/Nari Niketan etc., sponsored by the State Governments and the concerned administrative Ministry of the Government of India. Foodgrains can now be allocated, under the Annapoorna scheme, to indigent old persons even in the case of those receiving old age pension from the State Governments;

(iv) Foodgrains at CIP applicable for BPL families will be allocated for welfare schemes implemented by the various Ministries of the Government of India;

(v) Food grains will be allocated for development schemes (where the beneficiaries belong to BPL category), implemented by NGOs

sponsored by the State Governments and endorsed by the administrative Ministry in the Government of India, as also by International Organisations like the World Food Programme;

(vi) Government have also launched Antyodya Anna Yojana on 25.12.2000 under this scheme Government will release wheat and rice @Rs.2/- and Rs.3/- per kg respectively subject to 25 kg per family per month to approximate one crore poorest families all over the country, and the State Governments have accordingly been requested to identify these families.